

# City News

Published Monthly For Residents & Businesses in Diamond Bar

## Grand Avenue Makeover Nearly Completed



Pictured are the City's Senior Engineer Rick Yee and Street Maintenance Superintendent Jorge Garcia inspecting the new landscaping.

Finishing touches are being made to Grand Avenue as part of a million dollar makeover project that will extend its service life another 20 years.

Set for completion later this month, Phase Three of this project will provide much-needed roadway repairs and rehabilitation to close to a mile of the heavily-traversed avenue.

The work, financed in most part by, Federal Highway Administration funds, included resurfacing the roadway, upgrading the irrigation system, and planting drought-tolerant landscape within the median islands.

The need for the rehabilitation work was identified by the County of Los Angeles while conducting a study that determined Grand Avenue was part of the regional roadway network, and therefore a regionally important artery.

Phase One and Two of the rehabilitation project were completed in 2005 and included landscape improvements to the portion of Grand Avenue west of Cahill Place and Rolling Knoll Road.

For more information on this project, call the Public Works Department at 909.839.7070.

## For Your Convenience...

### Municipal Code Is Online

Did you know that Diamond Bar Municipal Code is accessible via the City's website for easy and quick reference? The Municipal Code is the City's official law book made up of every rule Diamond Bar residents and business must follow – including every ordinance and zoning regulation.

To access the Municipal Code, visit [www.cityofdiamondbar.com](http://www.cityofdiamondbar.com) and click on the button "Municipal Code Online" located on the white, right-hand menu. This link features a searchable online database maintained by the Municipal Code Corporation. You can search by topic or by simply entering a key word into the search button and click "search."



## The Forecast Calls for Snow in Diamond Bar Later this Month...

Eighty tons of snow good for riding sleds down three 25-foot long slides or making snowmen and snow angels in designated play areas is scheduled to arrive!

But snow isn't the only thing that will be featured at the City's popular Winter Snow Fest set for Saturday, January 17 from 10 am to 4 pm at Pantera Park, 738 Pantera Drive.

Event goers will also be treated to winter-themed presentations by school and community groups, a special visit from "Flurry the Sledding Penguin," and a variety of food and game choices.

Admission to the event and snow play areas is free. Wristbands – \$5.00 to ride the sleds unlimited times and play 10 games or \$1 to play 10 games – will be available for purchase at the event.

It is highly recommended that children wear gloves and closed-toe shoes. No outside sleds will be allowed.

Free shuttle pick-up will be available from the surrounding neighborhood. For more information, call the City's Community Services Department at 909.830.7070.

## City Swiftly Implements New Safety Standards

The City is moving swiftly to bring traffic control devices within Diamond Bar school zones up to new state standards.

Municipalities statewide have until January 1, 2011 to implement the new signage and markings standards but City officials are not idling.

Last month, the City's Public Works Department began making the modifications near several schools, including Castle Rock, Golden Springs, and Walnut elementary schools, as well as South Pointe Middle School.

The modifications, paid for with monies from the City's General Fund, are aimed at improving pedestrian safety by making school zones more visible.

They include revising school pavement legends, replacing traditional yellow school advance warning signs and school crosswalk signs with fluorescent



The City's Senior Maintenance Worker Jason Fuentes is photographed installing a new sign near the intersection of Blackhawk Drive and Lemon Avenue.

The new signs are designed to provide greater visibility than the standard yellow signs.

yellow-green signs, and upgrading school crosswalks to yellow, ladder-style crosswalks.

The City plans to have all the modifications in place well in advance of the deadline. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 909.830.7070.

Published by the City of Diamond Bar, City News contains information on City issues, policies, events, and programs. It is published and mailed monthly to all residences and businesses in Diamond Bar. For more information, contact the Public Information Division at 909.839.7056.

#### Elected Officials

**Mayor**.....Ron Everett  
**Mayor Pro Tem**.....Carol Herrera  
**Council Member**.....Wen Chang  
**Council Member**.....Jack Tanaka  
**Council Member**.....Steve Tye  
**City Manager**.....James DeStefano



21825 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178  
909.839.7000 ♦ 909.861.3117 Fax  
[www.cityofdiamondbar.com](http://www.cityofdiamondbar.com)  
[info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us](mailto:info@ci.diamond-bar.ca.us)

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# Business Awards

And the winners are...

## New Business



### Kaiser Permanente

1336 Bridge Gate Dr.

800.514.6899

800.800.7990 (TTY)

[member.kaiserpermanente.org](http://member.kaiserpermanente.org)

#### Hours:

Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am - 5 pm

## Business of the Month



### Xavier's Florist

1220 S. Diamond Bar Blvd, Unit D

909.860.3076

[www.xavier florist.com](http://www.xavier florist.com)

#### Hours:

Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am - 6 pm

Sat. 9 am - 3 pm



# Traffic Management Program Puts Residents In The Driver's Seat

Residents of two Diamond Bar neighborhoods can soon look forward to a reduction of cut-through traffic and speeding issues on their streets as a result of a special City program which places the community's input at the heart of the solution.

Later this month, the City will be installing a combination of traffic calming measures within the Sunset Crossing and Prospectors Road neighborhood. It follows completion of a similar effort in the Palomino neighborhood in December.

The projects are the first of their kind in Diamond Bar, and are a direct result of the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP).

Initiated by the City in September 2004, the NTMP is a unique approach to implementing traffic management strategies in residential neighborhoods based on community input.

In short, the NTMP involves a four-step process that can take up to two years to develop and carry out: Getting Started, Evaluation, Approval, and Implementation.

Aside from community input, other factors that come into play when evaluating possible traffic

calming measures to address traffic issues include engineering principles, availability of right-of-way, and funding.

For instance, although the traffic calming projects addressed here were both aimed at reducing cut-through traffic and speeding, the measures decided for each area were slightly different.

The strategies used in the Palomino neighborhood consist of speed cushions, raised crosswalks, and small median islands, while those implemented in the Sunset Crossing and Prospectors Road neighborhood consist of landscape medians, curb extensions, and speed cushions.

The \$74,594 project in the Palomino neighborhood was paid for with monies from the City's Traffic Improvement Fund, while the \$400,000 project in the Sunset Crossing and Prospectors Road neighborhood is being funded with a \$220,000 federal grant and funds from the Traffic Congestion Relief Fund.

For more information about the program, visit the City's website or call the Public Works Department at 909.839.7070.



The City's Associate Engineer Kimberly Molina takes down traffic concerns from two residents during a Neighborhood Traffic Management Pilot Program Open House held by the City in January of 2007.

# Congratulations Panthers...

Several Diamond Ranch High School students started off the year on a bright note after performing in the 120th Tournament of Roses parade on January 1, 2009. Damien Ogas, Jarrett McElroy, Elena Grijalva, Vincent Alegado and Kris Carlson auditioned last fall for a spot in the Tournament of Roses Honor Band and were all selected. Only about two hundred students are chosen to be part of the band during an all-day audition with musicians throughout Southern California vying for this coveted honor. The City joins the Panther family at Diamond Ranch High School in congratulating Damien, Jarrett, Elena, Vincent, and Kris! Good job!

# Visit Social Security Online

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

Individuals approaching age 62 can apply for Social Security retirement by visiting the Social Security website. But the site is good for many other services as well – and they are not restricted to older adults.

Adult workers of all ages can compare different retirement dates and project future earnings using the Retirement Estimator, which provides benefit estimates based on your actual Social Security earnings record.

Workers age 25 and older can request a Social Security Statement with detailed information about the individual's earnings over the years as well as an estimate of how much their family would be eligible for in survivors' benefits.

Adults with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities can complete much of the work necessary to obtain benefits, like completing the adult or child disability report.



Also, site visitors can locate the Social Security office closest to them and change their contact information or direct deposit account number.

Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call 1800.772.1213 or 1800.325.0778 (TTY) for more information.



# Recent Wildfire Tests City's Preparedness

The City's emergency operations procedures were put to the test last November during the wildfires that pushed toward Diamond Bar threatening the Country Estates and the southern portion of Diamond Bar, an area bordered by Brea Canyon Road to the west, Ambushers Street to the north, Falcon Ridge to the east and City limits to the south.

The series of windblown wildfires, referred to as the Freeway Complex Fire, began in Riverside County and spread to Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties.

The fire came critically close to Diamond Bar and prompted City Manager James DeStefano to order the activation of the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as a precaution against the fire threat.

However, the swift and skilled work of an army of Fire and Sheriff's personnel coupled with the shift of the wind direction kept the fire at bay in the Tonner Canyon area (southerly border of Diamond Bar), and did not reach city limits.

The City's EOC was closed down once the evacuation orders were lifted, but City staff took subsequent steps to further strengthen the City's emergency readiness.

Those steps included meeting with homeowner associations of the threatened areas to discuss fire prevention methods and review landscaping plans to determine if modifications were required; and



Coincidentally, the City's emergency response team had sharpened their emergency preparedness skills a few days before the fire during a disaster training exercise. More than a dozen City staff members participated in a two-hour tabletop exercise designed to update them on the most recent EOC operating procedures, set-up, and functions.

participating in local and county-wide incident debriefings to discuss what went right and what could be improved in the event of a future emergency.

In the event of an emergency or disaster affecting the Diamond Bar community, the City's EOC, housed in City Hall, becomes the hub of centralized emergency management and subsequent recovery efforts.

The EOC is staffed by the City's emergency response team, made up of personnel who are fully trained to perform all emergency procedures related to disaster management, including operations, logistics, planning, intelligence and financial administration.

The team is also joined by personnel from the Walnut/Diamond Bar Sheriff's Station, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the American Red Cross.

## Retire Your Electronics the Right Way



For many, the upcoming Super Bowl is the perfect excuse to purchase a new television. If you plan on upgrading yours, remember to properly dispose of your old one. The same goes for all other electronics that contain hazardous components that are harmful to health and our environment.

Next month, Los Angeles County residents will have the opportunity to get rid of unwanted electronics as well as other hazardous waste when the City holds its annual free Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Round-Up. Check out next month's City News or visit the City's website [www.cityofdiamondbar.com](http://www.cityofdiamondbar.com) to obtain more details about the event. You may also call the City's Environmental Services Division at 909.839.7038.

## Holiday Reminders



### Take Down Holiday Lights

Now that the holidays are over, don't forget to take down your holiday lights. The City's Municipal Code -- Section 527.3(b) -- requires that all holiday lighting be removed after 30 days from the date of installation. If you have any questions, please contact the City of Diamond Bar's Neighborhood Improvement Division at 909.839.7030.

### Holiday Tree Collection

Free curbside tree collection will continue through Friday, January 16. Trees should be free of lights, tinsel and stands (flocking is okay), cut into 4-foot lengths, and placed at the curb on your collection day. For more information, contact Waste Management at 909.599.1274.



## Ask City Hall

Answers to commonly asked questions about City services, codes, and other matters pertaining to living and working in Diamond Bar.

**Q:** My streetlight is out. How do I get it fixed?

**A:** All street lights within the City are the property of Southern California Edison. You can report an inoperable street light by calling the City's Public Works Department at 909.839.7040 or Southern California Edison at 800.655.4555 or via their website at [www.sce.com/forms/ReportStreetLightOutage.aspx](http://www.sce.com/forms/ReportStreetLightOutage.aspx).

You will need the following information: the address specific location (address or nearest cross streets), the streetlight pole number (if available, it is found at eye level), and the nature of the problem.

If the streetlight is located within a City park, contact the City's Community Services Department at 909.839.7060 or complete a service request via the City's website at [www.cityofdiamondbar.com](http://www.cityofdiamondbar.com).

## Stay Informed With a Free e-Subscription

Residents interested in being informed of matters coming before the Diamond Bar City Council are encouraged to visit the City's website and sign up for e-Subscription. The free service notifies subscribers by email when new meeting agendas are posted online. The service may also be used to receive notifications when new City jobs become available or when the latest City News or Community Recreation Guide are released.

## Annual Valentine's Dinner Dance

**Wednesday, February 11th**

Adults 55 and older are invited to show off their Valentine's Day spirit next month by wearing red to a dance celebrating the special day.

The annual Senior Valentine Dance featuring dinner and dancing will be held on Wednesday, February 11 from 6 to 9 pm at the Diamond Bar Center, 1600 S. Grand Avenue.

Tickets to the dance cost \$12 each and will be on sale at the Center until February 6th.



# Find it Fast Phone Directory

<b>City Services</b>	<b>909.839.7000</b>
City Council	909.839.7010
Building & Safety	909.839.7020
City Clerk's Office	909.839.7010
City Manager's Office	909.839.7010
Community Development	909.839.7030
Community Services	909.839.7060
Facility Reservations	909.839.7070
Finance	909.839.7050
Human Resources	909.839.7015
Library	909.861.4978
Neighborhood Improvement	909.839.7030
Planning	909.839.7030
Post Office	909.860.2469
Public Information Office	909.839.7055
Public Safety Services	909.839.7075
Public Works/Engineering	909.839.7040
Recreation Services	909.839.7070
Senior Services	909.839.7068
Transit Information	909.839.7045
Voter Registration	562.462.2748

<b>Business Information:</b>	
Business Licenses	909.839.7030
Chamber of Commerce	909.860.1904

<b>School Districts:</b>	
Pomona Unified	909.397.4700
Walnut Valley Unified	909.595.1261

<b>Utilities:</b>	
So Cal Edison (electric)	800.611.1911
So Cal Gas (gas)	800.427.2200
Time Warner (cable TV)	888.892.2253
Verizon (telephone)	800.483.5000
Walnut Valley Water	909.595.7554
Waste Disposal:	
Valley Vista (businesses)	800.442.6454
Waste Management (residents)	909.599.1274

<b>Public Safety:</b>	
Animal Control	909.623.9777
Fire (LA County)*	909.629.9671
Police (LA Co. Sheriff)*	909.595.2264
Vector Control	562.944.9656









<b>24-Hour Hotlines:</b>	
Building Inspection Hotline	909.839.7027
Graffiti Hotline	800.794.7384
Job Hotline	909.612.4636 x 1410

\*For emergencies, dial 9-1-1

## Calendar Key

	City Council Meeting*- starts at 6:30 pm
	Planning Commission Meeting*- starts at 7 pm
	Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting*- starts at 7 pm
	Traffic & Transportation Commission Meeting*- starts at 7 pm
	Transit Late Night - City Hall open until 7 pm
	Winter Snow Fest - 10 am to 4 pm at Pantera Park, 738 Pantera Drive

## January 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 New Year's Day City offices closed	2	3
4	5	6 	7	8 	9	10
11	12	13 	14	15	16	17 
18	19	20 	21	22 	23	24
25	26	27  	28	29	30	31

# Snapshots Around The Community

## Notes From The Heart...

Hundreds of Diamond Bar residents took advantage of the opportunity to send a personalized message to the Freeway Complex Fire Heroes via a community-wide thank-you effort officially launched by the City Council at its regular meeting of November 18. The effort consisted of 20-foot banners which City staff placed at various community locations including City Hall, the Diamond Bar Center, the Country Estates, and Diamond Bar High School. The banners were made available for several weeks for residents who wanted to inscribe a message or simply sign their name for all or any of the fire heroes, which include fire and Sheriff personnel, Red Cross volunteers, the Humane Society, local businesses, churches, and neighbors. The banners are going to be presented to the heroes later this month. The City's Assistant to the City Manager Ryan McLean is photographed adding his sentiments to one of the banners.



Castle Rock Elementary second graders got a lesson on the role and interdependence of buyers and sellers this past holiday. About 80 students got the opportunity to make a product, advertise it, and then sell it to their peers as part of "Business Day," the culminating activity of the lesson titled "We All Work Together." Each child was given "Castle Rock Cash" to shop and buy products from one another. Students were instructed to spend every dollar, which was a cinch amid the variety of treats and trinkets. Some of the clever bargain hunters negotiated on the prices, then proudly placed their buys into shopping bags.

## We Made It!...








Residents turned out in droves last November to celebrate the opening of the Steep Canyon Trailhead which included an optional climb up a newly-created 105-step winding staircase. From left, Maricar and John Rojas with baby Kayla, and friend Tiffany Lau with her 6-month Siberian Husky were among the hundreds who took the challenge and were compensated with a commemorative knapsack and pocket-sized map of the trails in town when they reached the top. The new access point located at Steep Canyon Road and Clear Creek Canyon Drive leads hikers to the Summitridge Trail, which spans a little over a mile in length and ends at the Diamond Bar Center. The trail is best known for its panoramic views of the San Gabriel Valley.



## Environment Enthusiasts...

Members of South Pointe Middle School's Green Team may not share the same grade level, but they do share the same interest for recycling. Headed by Language Arts and Fine Arts teacher Debbie Legarra, the Team is made up of more than sixty 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who meet every Wednesday after school to discuss environmental programs and collect bottles, cans, and paper from around campus. Their task of collecting recyclables was made a lot easier thanks to the 50 co-mingled recycling bins provided by the City's Environmental Services Division last winter. Some of the Team's members are pictured during their campus sweep: (from l) Elizabeth Garcia, April Hong, Beaudie Nne, Chrystal Zeng, Adrienne Cruz, Mandy Lai, Grace Shim, Kashti Nayem, Ellen Son, and the group's supervisor, Language Arts teacher, Kathryn Fujihara.

## February 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12 	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23 	24 	25	26 	27	28

\*All meetings take place at the AQMD/Government Center, 21865 Copley Drive. Additional event and meeting details are available at [www.cityofdiamondbar.com](http://www.cityofdiamondbar.com).